



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau
2044 A Galisteo, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

Telephone (505) 827-1567
Fax (505) 827-1544



PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

PAUL R. RITZMA
DEUPTY SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Steve Zappe, NMED WIPP Project Leader

SUBJECT: **SUMMARY OF PHONE DISCUSSION WITH DAVIS
CHRISTENSEN, LANL RH TRU WASTE MANAGEMENT**

DATE: October 16, 2000

I spoke with Davis Christensen of LANL this morning (ph 505-665-8686) to discuss inventory and management of RH TRU waste at TA-54 Area G. He shared the following information with me:

- Current RH TRU inventory is ~96 m³, dating from the 1980's to the present.
- About 17 m³ is packaged in WIPP WAC Rev 3 compliant containers (i.e., stainless steel canisters, etc.).
- Remaining inventory would need to be retrieved, recharacterized, and repackaged prior to shipment to WIPP.
- There has been no new RH TRU waste since about 1996, and no projected new waste for the near future.
- Waste is stored in shafts in Area G. Older shafts are ~65 feet deep, newer shafts are ~15 feet deep, located on ~6 foot centers. Shaft construction is a metal pipe component with a concrete plug at the bottom and a concrete plug with lifting pins at the top. Theoretically, the entire assembly can be removed via the lifting pins and a hoist, but there is concern whether the metal pipe component in the older shafts is still intact.
- LANL inspects shafts to ensure no water infiltration occurs, samples soil, and for the newer waste has sampled headspace gas in the canisters.
- Documentation on newer RH waste is very good, with detailed description of contents of cans within drums within canisters. However, documentation on the older waste is limited, often a one-line description and is therefore unsuitable for AK purposes.

001014.5

